

Let's Discuss...Purpose

PART 2_What's in Your Hand?



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Scriptures mentioned:

"I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations."
Jeremiah 1:5 NLT

Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.
Psalm 139:16 NIV

Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes.
Ephesians 1:4 NLT

Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.
Luke 22:42 NIV

I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb.
Jeremiah 1:5a NLT

The Parable of the Talents
Matthew 25:14-30

Summary

In this convo we do some wrestling... Why do so many of us struggle to figure out our individual purposes? How can God know everything and have plans for us before we were born, and yet we have free will? What if I thought my purpose was one thing, and then I lose that thing? As we consider all this, it comes back around to one simple question...What's in your hand?

Let's Discuss...

- Sharon talks about how comparing ourselves to others can make it hard for us to discern our own individual purposes. Do you agree with this? How can we minimise the practice of comparison in our lives?
- What do you think about Othniel's Triad – the idea that our purpose might be found in the overlap between (1) our desires, (2) God's will, and (3) happiness and satisfaction? If one of these three is missing, could it still be God's will for us?
- How do you reconcile the idea that God knows everything, and yet we have free will?
- Read the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30.
 - » Does this parable imply that we can miss out on blessings by not being good stewards of the resources we've been given?
 - » Why do you think the master was so harsh on the servant who simply took care of and returned the one talent he was given? Was this fair? In our own lives, how can we know whether or not we are being good stewards (investors) of the resources God has given us?
- Sharon says that every day we should be asking the Holy Spirit, "What do you have for me today? Here's what I have, what do you want me to do with it?" Is this a regular practice in your life?
- If today God were to ask you, "What's in your hand?" how would you respond?
 - » When you look at what's in your hand today, is it what you wanted or thought it would be?
 - » Consider the ways that you can allow God to use what's in your hand for His purposes...How can you invest and steward what you've already been given well? Commit to reflecting more on this throughout the next week.

Let's Pray...

Then the Lord asked him, "What is that in your hand?"
Exodus 4:2a NLT

- Let's ask the Lord to show us (very specifically) what we have in our hands. Ask Him to give us supernatural insight into how we can steward these resources, gifts, and talents for His purposes. Pray that He would replace any fear we have of using and investing them with boldness and courage.

Bonus!

- Read the rest of Exodus 4 this week.
- What happens physically each time Moses is obedient to do what God told him to with what he has? What does God tell him each time is the purpose for this?

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His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'
Matthew 25:23 NKJV

Then the Lord asked him, "What is that in your hand?" "A shepherd's staff," Moses replied.
Exodus 4:2 NLT

- See verses 10 and 13. Can you relate to Moses in these verses? Would you be this honest with God? How does God respond each time to Moses' insecurity?
- In verse 31, what is the end result of Moses' and Aaron's obedience to God?

Let's Go Deeper...

- **God is Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Omnipresent** by John Stange [article]
- **What is biblical stewardship?** by gotquestions.org [article]